

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01630 01 OF 04 121305Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00

INRE-00 /069 W

----- 124116

O R 121100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2701

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN

USDAO SAIGON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01630 01 OF 04 121305Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 1630

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINR PINT MILI PARM ICRC PFOR VS VN NO

SUBJ: EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY FOR

FEB 6 - FEB 12, 1975

WEEKA ITEMS

-- THE MILITARY SITUATION

-- PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON TET

-- GVN PERSONNEL CHANGES

-- PRESIDENT THIEU VISITS ARVN UNITS

-- TE AMNESTY GRANTED

-- BIG MINH HOSTS RECEPTION, READS STATEMENT

-- NRF ACTIVITY

-- PRESS CONFERENCE PRESENTS GVN CASE

-- OPPOSITION ATTACKS GVN MOVES ON PRESS

-- FREE VIETNAMESE PRESS REMAINS VOCAL AND CRITICAL

-- THE PRESS TAKES A TET HOLIDAY

-- GVN POSITION UPHELD AT LOW CONFERENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01630 01 OF 04 121305Z

-- DELEGATION OF NORWEGIAN LAWMAKERS VISITS SVN

-- JANUARY EXPORT EARNINGS DOWN

-- PRE-TET PRICE SURGE

-- CURRENCH AND GOLD MARKETS QUIET

I. INTERNAL

A. THE MILITARY SITUATION

THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS UP OVER ONE-THIRD THIS WEEK, BUT THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PREDICTED UPSWNG IN THE DELTA. THERE, AS COUNTRYWIDE, HOWEVER, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING WAS NOT OF PARTICULARLY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ACTIVITY WILL PICK UP IN A NUMBER OF AREAS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE NUMBER OF GVN AND COMMUNIST KILLED IN ACTION WAS SOMEWHAT HIGHER FOR THE WEEK.

B. PRES THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON TET

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, PRES THIEU ADDRESSED HIS /COMPATRIOTS, FELLOW COMBATANTS AND CADRES" THROUGHOUT THE NATION. HIS SPEECH STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR INCREASED SACRIFICES BY THE SVN PEOPLE TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE COUNTRY AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. EXCERPTS OF HIS REMARKS FOLLOW:

"AS THE COMMUNISTS ARE FRENZIEDLY STEPPING UP THEIR MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN OUR TERRITORY, WE CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL NEVER RESIGN THEMSELVES TO SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT UNLESS THEIR CURRENT RENEWED ARMED AGGRESSION IS DEFEATED."

"I HAVE OFTEN TOLD YOU,...THAT WE, THE SOUTHERNERS, CANNOT ACHIEVE PEACE IN FREEDOM AND ABUNDANCE BY GIVING UP FIGHTING AND SURRENDERING TO THE NVN COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS AND BY AGREEING TO A COALITION GOVT WITH THE COMMUNIST LACKEYS."

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PAGE 04 SAIGON 01630 01 OF 04 121305Z

"THEREFORE, WE MUST FIRST OF ALL DEFEAT THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE NVN COMMUNISTS IN THE YEAR OF THE CAT. NEXT, WE MUST FRUSTRATE THEIR OVERALL ATTEMPT TO WAGE A WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOUTH AND FORCE THEM TO SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ALLOW THE SVN PEOPLE TO HOLD FREE, DEMOCRATIC GENERAL ELECTIONS. ...THAT IS WHY I HAVE SET FORTH THREE MAJOR EFFORTS TO BE MADE THIS YEAR. THEY ARE:

1. MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO THE FRONTLINE.
2. MAXIMUM STABILITY IN THE REAR BASE.
3. POSITIVE EFFORTS TO BOOST PRODUCTION.

...WE CAN IN NO WAY ALLOW UNDERGROUND COMMUNIST AGENTS

AND LACKEYS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SPECULATORS TO INFIL-
TRATE OUR NATIONAL RANKS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER TO SPOIL AND
INSTIGATE THE MASSES, TO ADVOCATE SOLUTIONS LEADING TO A SUR-
RENDER TO THE COMMUNISTS, TO LEND A HAND TO ... FOREIGN FORCES
THAT ARE TRYING TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN DEFIANCE OF
THE SURVIVAL OF OUR NATION AND PEOPLE, OR TO CLAIM DISORDERLY
FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN AN EFFORT TO DEMORALIZE OUR PEOPLE
AND ARMED FORCES ...

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01630 02 OF 04 121313Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

ISO-00 /069 W

----- 124261

O R 121100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2702

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA

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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01630 02 OF 04 121313Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 SAIGON 1630

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

C. GVN PERSONNEL CHANGES

COL HOANG TRONG NHU ASSUMED DUTIES OF PLEIKU PROV CHIEF AND SECTOR CMDR FEB 5. HE REPLACED COL NGUYEN DUC DUNG WHO HAD BEEN PROV CHIEF SINCE AUG 1973. UNTIL HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT COL NHU WAS CMDR OF RANGER INTERGROUP 23. IN ANOTHER ACTION, PRES THIEU PROMOTED A NUMBER OF NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS ON THE OCCASION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR. BRIG GEN NGUYEN KHAC BINH, NATIONAL POLICE CMDR, WAS PROMOTED TO FUNCTIONAL MAJOR GENERAL. POLICE COLONELS BUI VAN NHU, HUYNH THOI TAY, TRUONG BAY AND NGUYEN VAN GIAU WERE PROMOTED TO FUNCTIONAL BRIG GENERALS AND ASSIMILATED POLICE COLONEL TRANG SI TAN WAS PROMOTED TO FUNCTIONAL ASSIMILATED BRIG GENERAL.

D. PRES THIEU VISITS ARVN UNITS

DURING THE PAST WEEK PRES THIEU VISITED ALL FOUR MILITARY REGIONS ON A PRE-TET HOLIDAY TOUR OF FRONTLINE ARVN UNITS. THIEU ADDRESSED VARIOUS UNITS, AND EXCERPTS OF HIS REMARKS WERE CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS AND TV. SOME PAPERS SEE "HINT" THAT PRESIDENT WILL STAND FOR REELECTION IN HIS STATEMENT: "IF IN THE COMING DAYS, THE PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES IN SVN HAVE PROVED THAT THEY ARE STEADFAST IN THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST COMMUNISTS AGGRESSION, I WILL CONTINUE MY RESPONSIBILITY AS CHIEF OF THIS COUNTRY." THE PRESIDENT ALSO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE TO THE TROOPS THAT ADDITIONAL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

E. TET AMNESTY GRANTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01630 02 OF 04 121313Z

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TET LUNAR NEW YEAR, PRES THIEU GRANTED AMNESTY TO 269 PRISONERS (DECREE NO 162 TTSL). THE SEMI-OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED THAT 76 PRISONERS WERE RELEASED AND 193 HAD THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE ANOTHER 135 DETAINEES IN PROVINCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY GIVEN LENIENCY BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 404 PRISONERS RECEIVING AMNESTY.

F. BIG MINH HOSTS RECEPTION, READS STATEMENT

DUONG VAN MINH ON FEB 5 HOSTED RECEPTION FOR OPPOSITION FIGURES INCLUDING THICH TRI QUANG, FR THANH, AND NUMBER OF OTHERS. GATHERING, HELD TO MARK END OF YEAR, WAS ALSO OCCASION FOR STRONG ANTI-GOVT STATEMENT BY MINH, WHICH HOWEVER BROKE NO RPT NO NEW GROUND. MINH CONTENDED THAT "RECONCILIATION IS NOT VAGUE IDEA IMPLYING GENEROUS BUT UNREALISTIC SENTIMENTS," BUT HE CHARACTERISTICALLY FAILED TO DESCEND TO DETAILS. HE CALLED GOVT "TYRANNICAL" FOR RECENT MOVE AGAINST NEWSPAPERS. IN PRESS CONF AFTERWARDS, OTHERS REPORTEDLY SPOKE UP INCLUDING FR THANH AND VN PUBLISHERS ASSN CHRMN TON THAT DINH, EACH CRITICIZING GOVT IN FAMILIAR TERMS. MTG WAS NOTABLE ONLY FOR SOMEWHAT WIDER ATTENDANCE OF OPPOSITION FIGURES THAN IN RECENT PAST.

G. NRF ACTIVITY

VU VAN MAU AND OTHER NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FORCE (NRF) FIGURES HELD MTGS TO FORM DISTRICT-LEVEL CMTEs IN HUE FEB 2 AND 3 IN LONG DIEN DISTRICT, PHUOC TUY ON FEB 5. MAU TOLD A HUE AUDIENCE THAT NRF NOW ESTABLISHED IN THIRTY PROVINCES, BUT HUE WAS FIRST TO ESTABLISH DISTRICT ORGANIZATION. AT FEB 3 MTG MAU AND OTHERS INCLUDING DPTY LY QUY CHUNG CRITICIZED THUA THIEN PROV CHIEF FOR HAVING TRIED TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE, SPOKE OF MISSION OF RECONCILIATION, IDENTIFIED "THIRD FORCE" WITH THOSE LIKE NRF WHO ARE FOR PEACE AND AGAINST GOVT, CALLED FOR PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, AND ACCUSED THIEU OF OFFERING TO CONCEDE QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN TO COMMUNISTS AS PART OF SECRET DEAL. CONGEN DANANG ESTIMATED FEB 3 CROWD AT 300-700 AND THAT OF FEB 5 AT 300.

MAU ACCUSED LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF OBSTRUCTION ALL THREE MTGS -- IN HUE BY PUBLICLY URGING PEOPLE NOT TO ATTEND AND IN

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PAGE 04 SAIGON 01630 02 OF 04 121313Z

PHUOC TUY BY HAVING POLICE TURN BACK PERSONS ON WAY TO MTG AND BY CONFISCATING SOME INVITATIONS IN MARKET AREA. THUA THIEN PROV CHIEF APPARENTLY DID USE RADIO AND TV TO ASK PEOPLE TO STAY AWAY FROM MTG SINCE MIGHT BE SCENE OF VC TERRORIST INCIDENT BUT SAID AT SAME TIME MTG WAS LEGAL. IN PHUOC TUY, NATIONAL POLICE COMPANY SURROUNDED MTG PLACE, AND POWER BLACKOUT OCCURRED DURING PROCEEDINGS, BUT MTG PROCEEDED AS SCHEDULED.

H. PRESS CONFERENCE PRESENTS GVN CASE

THE GOVT HELD A PRESS CONF ON FEB 6 (REF SAIGON 1456, 1466, 1535) TO EXPLAIN WHY IT LIFTED THE PUBLISHING LICENSES OF FIVE NEWSPAPERS (FEB 3) AND ARRESTED (FEB 4) A NUMBER OF NEWSMEN SUSPECTED OF BEING COMMUNIST AGENTS (SAIGON 1405). THE GOVT PRESENTED EVIDENCE IN FOR FORM OF CAPTURED DOCUMENTS AND THE FIRST PERSON TESTIMONY OF TWO RALLIERS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN COMMUNIST PROSELYTIZING AIMED AT THE PRESS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE AUDIENCE -- INCLUDING REPS OF NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED - IN GENERAL, APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE FACT OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION AS CHARGED BY THE GOVT. THEIR QUESTIONS, AND IMPLIED DEFENSE, FOCUSED ON WHY THE PAPERS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR STAFF (SAIGON 1456). (NOTE: BACKGROUND EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THE EMB CONTAINING INDICATIONS OF COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS OF ELEVEN OF THOSE ARRESTED HAS BEEN SEPARATELY TRANSMITTED TO WASH -- SAIGON 1341).

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01630 03 OF 04 121359Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

ISO-00 /069 W

----- 124910

O R 121100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2703

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
USDAO SAIGON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01630 03 OF 04 121359Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 SAIGON 1630

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

I. OPPOSITION ATTACKS GVN MOVES

IN A RELATIVELY RARE PUBLIC STATEMENT, FORMER SENATE CHRMN NGUYEN VAN HUYEN AND TWO LILY BLOC COLLEAGUES ISSUED A STATEMENT ON FEB 4 CHARACTERIZING THE CLOSING OF THE DAILIES AS ILLEGITIMATE AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESS. ON FEB 8 SOME 48 OPPOSITION SENATORS AND DEPUTIES GATHERED AT THE LOWER HOUSE FOR ONE HOUR TO SIGN A LETTER "WRITTEN IN BLOOD" MOURNING THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY IN RVN. REPORTEDLY, ADDRESSED TO VARIOUS GROUPS, INCLUDING THE US CONGRESS, THE LETTER ATTACKED GVN'S ACTION AND CALLED FOR PRES THIEU'S RESIGNATION. THE POLICE OBSERVED THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED A HANDFUL OF MILITANT BUDDHIST

NUNS, BUT DID NOT INTERFERE IN ANY WAY.

ON THE DAY BEFORE TET (FEB 10), A SMALL GROUP OF OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS DRAWN MOSTLY FROM THE LOWER HOUSE PEOPLE'S SOCIETY BLOC AND THE UPPER HOUSE LOTUS BLOC HELD A 24-HOUR HUNGER STRIKE ON THE STEPS OF THE LOWER HOUSE TO SIGNAL THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE GOVT AND ITS RECENT MOVES TO PREVENT COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE PRESS (SAIGON 1587). TRADITIONAL TET CROWDS IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON REMAINED LARGELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE GROUP.

J. FREE VIETNAMESE PRESS REMAINS VOCAL AND CRITICAL

IN THE WAKE OF THR RECENT GVN ACTIONS, ALL FOUR REMAINING INDEPENDENT/OPPOSITION VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HAVE PRINTED, IN DETAIL, VITRIOLIC ATTACKS ON THE GOVT ISSUED BY SUCH FORCES AS PACM, THE MILITANT LAWYERS, THE STEERING CMTE OF PUBLISHERS AND WRITERS STRUGGLING FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND PUBLICATION AND GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH (SAIGON 1585). THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01630 03 OF 04 121359Z

UNHINDERED PUBLICATION OF THESE ATTACKS MAKES CLEAR THE IN-ACCURACY OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS IN THE SAIGON PRESS THAT THE GOVT IS TRYING TO MUZZLE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS; INDEDD IT IS SOLID EVIDENCE THAT THE OPPOSITION PRESS IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND KICKING IN SAIGON ONE WEEK AFTER THE "CRACKDOWN".

K. THE PRESS TAKES A PRESS HOLIDAY

THE VIETNAMESE PUBLISHERS ASSOC ((VPA) INITIALLY APPEALED FOR ALL INDEPENDENT/OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS TO INDEFINITELY SUSPEND PUBLICATION IN PROTEST AGAINST THESE ARRESTS AND SUSPENSIONS BUT SOON CHANGED ITS TUNE TO A ONE-DAY STOPPAGE (FEB 7). SEVERAL PAPERS WENT BACK ON THE STREETS FEB 8 AND 9 BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRADITIONAL LONG TET HOLIDAY. IN KEEPING WITH EARLIER YEARS, THE PRESS IS NOT EXPECTED TO RESUME PUBLICATION UNTIL FEB 15, THE FOURTH DAY OF TET (SAIGON 1536).

BEGIN CONFIDENTIA

II. EXTERNAL

A. GVN POSITION UPHELD AT LOW CONFERENCE

ON FEBRUARY 5, THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE DEFEATED TWO CHALLENGES TO THE CHAIRMAN'S RULING THAT RECONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER OF AN INVITATION TO THE "PRG" WOULD REQUIRE A TWO/THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE. CONFERENCE THUS UPHELD THE GVN (AND US) POSITION THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DECIDED LAST YEAR AND COULD ONLY BE REINTRODUCED UNDER RULE 32, REQUIRING A TWO/THIRDS MAJORITY TO RECONSIDER A PREVIOUSLY DECIDED QUESTION. ALGERIANS THEN DESISTED

FROM EFFORTS TO OBTAIN "PRG" PARTICIPATION, KNOWING THEY COULD NOT
ACHIEVE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY.

THIS REBUFF TO THE "PRG" WAS A WELCOME VICTORY FOR THE GVN
AND INTERRUPTED THE MOMENTUM WHICH THE EFFORTS OF THE DRV/"PRG"
TO BROADEN THE DIPLOMATIC BASE OF THE "PRG" HAD SEEMED TO BE
GATHERING WITH THE MID-JANUARY ESTABLISHMENT OF A "PRG" OFFICE
IN GENEVA AND REPORTS OF THE PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER
IN NEW DELHI. END CONFIDENTIAL.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 04 SAIGON 01630 03 OF 04 121359Z

B. DELEGATION OF NORWEGIAN LAWMAKERS VISITS SVN

A DELEGATION OF THREE NORWEGIAN LAWMAKERS, INCLUDING PAUL
THYNESS (CONSERVATIVE PARTY), ASBJORN HAUGSTVEDT (CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY), AND JOHANNES GILLEBERT (CENTER PARTY), VISITED SOUTH
VIETNAM FEB 2-8 AT THE INVITATION OF THE RVN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
DURING THEIR VISIT, THE THREE WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT NGUYEN
VAN THIEU, PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KHIEM, SENATE PRESIDENT
TRAN VAN LAM, SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE NGUYEN BA CAN AND
MANY OTHER OFFICIALS. THE VISITORS ALSO TRAVELED OUTSIDE
SAIGON SEVERAL TIMES. GVN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE VISIT
BELIEVED THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE WELL IMPRESSED BY WHAT THEY
SAW AND LEARNED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01630 04 OF 04 121341Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

ISO-00 /069 W

----- 124673

O R 121100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2704
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC
USDEL JEC PARIS
CIA
DIA
JCS
JUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
USAJFKCMA/ATCS-WL-DSA
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG UDORN
USDAO SAIGON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01630 04 OF 04 121341Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 SAIGON 1630

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

III. ECONOMIC

A. JANUARY EXPORT EARNINGS DOWN

PRELIMINARY NATIONAL BANK DATA SHOW JANUARY EXPORT
EARNINGS OF ONLY \$3.7 MILLION, THE LOWEST MONTHLY TOTAL SINCE

FEBRUARY 1973. EXPORT EARNINGS HAD ALREADY TAPERED OFF IN THE SECOND HALF OF LAST YEAR, FROM A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF \$7 MILLION TO A LITTLE OVER \$5 MILLION. FSHERIES EXPORTS WERE REPORTEDLY STILL STRONG, BUT LUMBER SHIPMENTS WERE SAID TO BE OFF AS A RESULT OF INCREASED VC HARASSMENT OF TIMBER OPERATIONS. ON THE PROMISING SIDE, EXPORT LETTERS OF CREDIT OPENINGS IN JANUARY WERE \$7.8 MILLION, INCLUDING A LIEKLY PICK-UP IN EARNINGS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

B. PRE-TET PRICE SURGE

A FLURRY OF TET-EVE BUYING SENT USAID'S CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SOARING 8 PERCENT FOR THE WEEK ENDED FEB 10. THE RISE WAS SIMILAR TO THE LAST-MINUTE PRICE SURGE THAT OCCURRED IN 1974, BEFORE MOST MARKETS CLOSED DOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES. PAWN SHOPS WERE REPORTING BRISK BUSINESS IN RECENT DAYS, SUGGESTING THAT DESPITE THE DECLINE IN LIVING STANDARDS IN THE PAST YEAR, VIETNAMESE WERE DETERMINED AT LEAST TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AT TET.

MOST OF THE PRICE INCREASE WAS CONFINED TO FOOD ITEMS, WHERE AVERAGE PRICES WERE UP 11 PERCENT. RICE REMAINED UNCHANGED, BUT ALL OTHER FOOD ITEMS IN THE INDEX ROSE, FROM 2-46 PERCENT. LEADING GAINERS WERE CHICKEN (46 PERCENT), DUCK 28 PERCENT),
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 01630 04 OF 04 121341Z

PORT (21 PERCENT), AND CABBAGE (33 PERCENT). THE NON-FOOD CATEGORY ROSE 3 PERCENT, MAINLY DUE TO HIGHER RATES FOR CIGARETTES, HAIRCUTS AND TRANSPORTATION.

C. CURRENCY AND GOLD MARKETS QUIET

BLACK MARKET DOLLAR QUOTES WERE VN \$805/US\$1 ON FEB 10, COMPARED TO VN \$806/\$1 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. GOLD PRICES EDGED UP TO US \$200.25 PER TROY OUNCE (CONVERTED AT THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE OF VN \$700/US \$1).
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-1036
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750250/aaaabslm.tel
Line Count: 642
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY FOR FEB 6 - FEB 12, 1975
TAGS: PINS, PINR, PINT, MILI, PARM, PFOR, VS, VN, NO, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006